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FEDERAL REGISTER

51 FR 10574

March 27, 1986

National Toxicology Program; Chemicals Nominated for Toxicological Studies; Request for Comments

SUMMARY: On January 8, 1986, the Chemical Evaluation Committee (CEC) of the **National Toxicology Program** (NTP) met to review eleven chemicals nominated for toxicology studies and to recommend the types of studies to be performed. With this notice, the NTP solicits public comment on the eleven chemicals listed herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS, CONTACT:Dr. Victor A. Fung, Chemical Selection Coordinator, **National Toxicology Program,** Room 2B55, Building 31, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 496-3511.

TEXT: SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As part of the chemical selection process of the National Toxicology Program, nominated chemicals which have been reviewed by the NTP Chemical Evaluation Committee (CEC) are published with request for comment in the Federal Register. This is done to encourage active participation in the NTP chemical evaluation process, thereby helping the NTP to make more informed decisions as to whether to select, defer or reject chemicals for toxicology study. Comments and data submitted in response to this request are reviewed and summarized by NTP technical staff, are forwarded to the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors for use in their evaluation of the nominated chemicals, and then the NTP Executive Committee for its decision-making about testing.

The NTP chemical selection process is summarized in the Federal Register, April 14, 1981 (46 FR 21828), and also in the NTP FY 1985 *Annual Plan,* pages 201-202.

On January 8, 1986, the CEC evaluated 11 chemicals nominated to the NTP for toxicological studies. The table below lists each chemical, its Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number, and the types of studies recommended by the CEC.

Chemical	Cas No.	Committee Recommendation
1. n-Butane	106-97-8	-- Prechronic studies, including subchronic study. -- *Drosophila* sex -- linked recessive lethal assay.
2. Isopentane	78-78-4	-- Prechronic studies, including subchronic study, and study of neuropathologic effects. -- *Drosophila* sex -- linked recessive lethal assay.
3. 2-Chloronitrobenzene 4. 4-Chloronitrobenzene	88-73-3 100-00-5	-- Prechronic studies -- subchronic studies to include testing for hematopoietic and cardiac effects, and sperm morphology/vaginal cytology evaluation. -- Other reproductive studies judged appropriate by NTP staff.
5. Furan	110-00-9	No study.
6. Furfuryl alcohol	98-00-0	Carcinogenicity study by inhalation route.
7. Bromochlo- roacetonitrile	83463-62-1	No study.
8. Dibromo- acetonitrile	3252-43-5	Do.
9. Dichloro- acetonitrile	3018-12-0	Do.

Chemical	Cas No.	Committee Recommendation
10. Catechol	120-80-9	Do.
11. Pentamidine isethionate	140-64-7	Do.

Eight of the eleven compounds have been previously selected for some type of toxicology study by the NTP. In two independent studies, 2-chloronitrobenzene (2-CNB) was positive in the *Salmonella* microsomal assay. 2-CNB was nonmutagenic for sex-linked recessive lethal mutations in *Drosophila* in two independent studies. 2-CNB yielded equivocal results for chromosomal aberrations and weakly positive results for sister chromatid exchanges in Chinese hamster ovary cells.

4-Chloronitrobenzene (4-CNB) was mutagenic in the *Salmonella* assay in two independent studies. 4-CNB was nonmutagenic for sex-linked recessive lethal mutations in *Drosophila.* The Chemical gave equivocal results for chromosomal aberrations and positive results for sister chromatid exchanges in Chinese hamster ovary cells.

Furan was nonmutagenic in the *Salmonella* assay. The chemical is being tested in the mouse lymphoma assay, in *Drosophila* for sex-linked recessive lethal mutations, and in Chinese hamster ovary cells for chromosomal aberrations and sister chromatid exchanges. Furan is also being tested in a gavage carcinogenicity bioassy in rats and mice, and this study is in the histopathology phase. A chemical dispositon study of furan has been completed.

Furfuryl alcohol was nonmutagenic in the *Salmonella* assay. In a subchronic gavage study in Fisher 344 rats and B6C3F1 mice, furfuryl alcohol induced lesions in the liver and kidneys of male and female rats, and lesions in the thymus, spleen, kidneys and liver of male and female mice.

Bromochloroacetonitrile was selected for testing in the *Salmonella* assay. However, this testing has been deferred because a commercial source for the chemical could not be identified.

Dibromoacetonitile was weakly mutagenic in the *Salmonella* assay in two independent studies. Dibromoacetonitrile did not induce sex-linked recessive lethal mutations in *Drosophila.*

Dicholoracetonitrile was mutagenic in the *Salmonella* assay in two independent studies. This chemical induced sex-linked recessive lethal mutations but not reciprocal translocations in *Drosphila.* It induced sister chromatid exchanges but not chromosomal aberrations in Chinese hamster ovary cells.

In two independent studies, catechol was nonmutagenic in the *Salmonella* assay. The NTP has conducted 90-day gavage studies on catechol in F344 rats and B6C3F1 mice.

The CEC also selected methylene blue for testing in the mouse lymphoma assay.

Interested parties are requested to submit pertinent information. The following types of data are of particular relevance:

(1) Modes of production, present production levels, and occupational exposure potential.

(2) Uses and resulting exposure levels, where known.

(3) Completed, ongoing and/or planned toxicologic testing in the private sector includng detailed experimental protocols and results in the case of completed studies.

(4) Results of toxicological studies of structurally related compounds.

Please submit all information in writing by April 28, 1986. Any submissions received after the above date will be accepted and utilized where possible.

Dated: March 19, 1986.

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Director, National Toxicology Program.

[FR Doc. 86-6711 Filed 3-26-86; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M